

14. (TWICE AMENDED) A method according to claim 9, wherein multiple collections of the PROFILES are each stored in different REGIONAL SERVERs, and each collection contains substantially all of the PROFILES.

REMARKS

I. Introduction

In response to the Office Action dated February 14, 2001, claims 1 and 5 have been amended. Claims 1-14 remain in the application. Re-examination and re-consideration of the application, as amended, is requested.

II. Claim Amendments

Applicant's attorney has made amendments to the claims as indicated above. These amendments were made solely for the purpose of clarifying the language of the claims, and were not required for patentability or to distinguish the claims over the prior art.

III. Office Action Double Patenting Rejection

In paragraphs (3)-(4), the Office Action provisionally rejects claims 1, 5, 6, and 9 under the judicially-created doctrine of double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 1 of U.S. Patent No. 5,699,526 in view of Ryu et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,408,608 (Ryu) and Oracle, Oracle7 Server Administrator's Guide, (Oracle).

The Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections, but will file a terminal disclaimer if necessary to moot this rejection when allowable subject matter is identified.

IV. Prior Art Rejections

In paragraph (5) of the Office Action, claims 1-7, 9-10, and 12-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ryu in view of Oracle. In paragraph (6) of the Office Action, claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ryu in view of Oracle as applied to claim 6 and in view of Terry et al. (Terry). In paragraph (7) of the Office

Action, claim 11 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ryu in view of Oracle as applied to claim 10 and in view of Dworkin, U.S. Patent No. 4,992,940 (Dworkin).

The Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

A. The Applicant's Claimed Invention

Independent claims 1, 5, 6, and 9 are generally directed to an invention that provides a resource management system. The system comprises a plurality of servers, grouped into local servers and regional servers. The local servers comprise means for storing resources, and the regional servers comprise means for storing profiles of resources. The local and regional servers are linked together for electronically transferring profiles and resources therebetween. A PC, distinct from the local servers, is coupled to one or more of the servers, where the PC stores profiles of resources into one or more of the regional servers, searches all of the profiles in all of the regional servers, and accesses a resource from any of the local servers based on the searched profiles.

B. The Ryu Reference

The Ryu reference teaches a distributed data base system that is formed by terminal units connected in a public network or a private network. Each terminal unit stores the real data and a temporary center stores control information, such as contents corresponding to the real data, keywords, or commands assigned to the data.

C. The Oracle Reference

The Oracle reference teaches a database administration system for a relational database management system wherein a database administrator may perform database server operations either locally from the server or remotely from a client.

D. The Terry Reference

The Terry reference describes continuous queries to append-only databases. Where data is continuously added to a database, users can issue permanent queries and be notified whenever data matches the query.

E. The Dworkin Reference

The Dworkin reference describes an automated system that assists a user in locating and purchasing goods or services sold by a plurality of vendors. The system includes a programmed computer which is linked to a database. The database contains information about a large number of different products and/or services, arranged in various categories. For each product or service, the database contains information on price, vendor, specifications, and/or availability.

F. Claims 1-14 Are Patentable Over The Cited References

Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-14 are patentable over the references, because these claims contain limitations not found in the references. Specifically, the references do not teach or suggest the elements of Applicant's independent claims directed to the PC, distinct from the local servers, storing profiles of resources into one or more of the regional servers, while storing the resources into the local servers. In addition, the references do not teach or suggest the elements of Applicant's independent claims directed to linking the local and regional servers together so that profiles and resources can be transferred therebetween. Moreover, the references do not teach or suggest the elements of Applicant's independent claims directed to the PC searching all of the profiles in all of the regional servers, and then accessing a resource from any of the local servers based on the searched profiles.

The Office Action asserts that the combination of Ryu and Oracle teach the storing of profiles of resources into one or more regional servers from a PC. According to the Office Action, Ryu teaches storing profiles of resources into one or more regional servers from a server computer and Oracle teaches resources/database operations, to which storing profiles of resources belongs, can be performed either locally from a server or remotely from a PC.

Applicant disagrees. The user terminals of Ryu do not store profiles of resources into one or more of the regional servers; instead, user terminals merely access contents stored in the contents control center, while only the data terminals store contents into the control center. The Oracle reference does not solve the deficiencies of the Ryu reference, because it only describes how a user can perform database server operations either locally from the server or remotely from a client, and these operations are not directed to storing profiles of resources into one or more of the regional servers, where the resources are stored in local servers.

The Office Action states that Ryu teaches linking the local and regional servers so that both profiles and resources can be transferred therebetween in that in the embodiment of distributed data system with a plurality of groups, local servers and regional servers are linked by a network. When a user/requesting terminal needs to access data held at local server, profiles of the terminal are transferred from the local server to the regional server and the actual data/resource is also transmitted in the same path.

Applicant disagrees. There is no teaching in Ryu of linking the local and regional servers together so that both profiles and resources can be transferred therebetween; instead, only profiles are transferred from data terminals to the control center in Ryu.

The Office Action states that Ryu teaches a PC/user terminal searching all the profiles in all the regional servers not only a single control center because in the embodiment of distributed database system with a plurality of groups, both local regional servers and other/remote regional servers are searched for profiles of resources.

Applicant disagrees. There is no teaching in Ryu of the PC searching all of the profiles in all of the regional servers, and then accessing a resource from any of the local servers based on the searched profiles; instead, only a single control center is searched in Ryu.

The Office Action asserts that Oracle teaches a resource (database) management system, wherein a user may perform resource/database operations either locally from a server or remote from a PC. Typical database administration operations include setting up and maintaining contents/profiles, internal structure and access strategy for a database.

Applicant asserts that this is a misreading of Oracle or a misinterpretation of "profile" and "resource" is used in Applicant's claims. Oracle only describes how a user can perform database server operations either locally from the server or remotely from a client. Notwithstanding the Office Action's assertions, however, such operations cannot be said to comprise storing profiles of resources into one or more of the regional servers, where resources are stored in local servers, or transferring both profiles and resources between linked local and regional servers, or searching all of the profiles in all of the regional servers, and then accessing a resource from any of the local servers based on the searched profiles.

Clearly, the Oracle reference does not solve the deficiencies of the Ryu reference. Consequently, the combination of Ryu and Oracle does not teach or suggest all the limitations of Applicant's independent claims.

Similarly, the Terry reference does not solve the combined deficiencies of the Ryu or Oracle references. Terry merely deals with continuous queries of a database, and thus is only cited against dependent claim 8.

Finally, the Dworkin reference does not solve the combined deficiencies of the Ryu, Oracle, or Terry references. Dworkin merely teaches a way to price shop via database query, and thus is only cited against dependent claim 11.

The novel limitations of the present invention allow for a client-server system that is more interchangeable and useful than those described in the prior art. Moreover, the various elements of the Applicant's claimed invention together provide operational advantages over the systems disclosed in the prior art. In addition, the Applicant's invention solves problems not recognized by the prior art.

Thus, the Applicant submits that independent claims 1, 5, 6, and 9 are allowable over Ryu, Oracle, Terry, and Dworkin. Further, dependent claims 2-4, 7-8, and 10-14 are submitted to be allowable over Ryu, Oracle, Terry, and Dworkin in the same manner, because they are dependent on independent claims 1, 6, and 9, respectively, and because they contain all the limitations of the independent claims. In addition, dependent claims 2-4, 7-8, and 10-14 recite additional novel elements not shown by Ryu, Oracle, Terry, and Dworkin.

V. Conclusion

In view of the above, it is submitted that this application is now in good order for allowance and such allowance is respectively solicited. Should the Examiner believe minor matters still remain that can be resolved in a telephone interview, the Examiner is urged to call Applicant's undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,


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APPENDIX: CLAIMS IN MARKED-UP FORM

1. (FOUR TIMES AMENDED) A RESOURCE management system, comprising:

(a) a plurality of SERVERs grouped into LOCAL SERVERs and REGIONAL SERVERs, each of the LOCAL SERVERs comprising means for storing RESOURCEs therein, and each of the REGIONAL SERVERs comprising means for storing PROFILES of RESOURCEs stored in one or more of the LOCAL SERVERs therein, wherein the LOCAL and REGIONAL SERVERs are linked together for electronically transferring PROFILES and RESOURCEs therebetween; and

(b) one or more PCs, distinct from the LOCAL SERVERs and coupled to one or more of the SERVERs, each of the PCs comprising:

(i) means for storing PROFILES of RESOURCEs into one or more of the REGIONAL SERVERs;

(ii) means for searching all of the PROFILES stored in all of the REGIONAL SERVERs; and

(iii) means for accessing a RESOURCE from any one of the LOCAL SERVERs based on the searched PROFILES.

2. (TWICE AMENDED) A system according to claim 1, wherein each of the PCs further comprises:

(iv) means for storing a downloadable RESOURCE into one or more of the LOCAL SERVERs.

3. (TWICE AMENDED) A system according to claim 2, wherein each of the PCs further comprises:

(v) means for downloading any of the RESOURCEs contained in any of the LOCAL SERVERs into the PC.

4. (TWICE AMENDED) A system according to claim 1, wherein the REGIONAL SERVERs further comprise:

(c) means for storing a PROFILE which contains information about a user of a SERVER; and

(d) means for restricting the user's access to RESOURCES based on the information contained in the user's PROFILE.

5. (FOUR TIMES AMENDED) A RESOURCE management system, comprising:

(a) one or more LOCAL SERVERs, each of the LOCAL SERVERs comprising means for storing RESOURCES therein; and

(b) one or more REGIONAL SERVERs, each of the REGIONAL SERVERs comprising means for storing PROFILES of RESOURCES stored in one or more of the LOCAL SERVERs;

(c) means for electronically linking the LOCAL and REGIONAL SERVERs together, so that PROFILES and RESOURCES can be transferred therebetween;

(d) one or more PCs, distinct from the LOCAL SERVERs and coupled to one or more of the SERVERs, each of the PCs comprising:

(i) means for storing PROFILES of RESOURCES into one or more of the REGIONAL SERVERs; and

(ii) means for searching all of the PROFILES stored in all of the REGIONAL SERVERs.

6. (FOUR TIMES AMENDED) A RESOURCE management system, comprising:

(a) a plurality of SERVERs grouped into LOCAL SERVERs and REGIONAL SERVERs, each of the LOCAL SERVERs comprising means for storing RESOURCES therein, and each of the REGIONAL SERVERs comprising means for storing PROFILES of RESOURCES stored in one or more of the LOCAL SERVERs, wherein the LOCAL and REGIONAL SERVERs are linked together for electronically transferring PROFILES and RESOURCES therebetween;

(i) each of the LOCAL SERVERs serving one or more PCs, the PCs being distinct from the LOCAL SERVERs; and

(ii) each of the REGIONAL SERVERs storing a catalog of PROFILES that describe RESOURCES; and

(b) means, performed by each of the PCs, for storing PROFILES on any of the REGIONAL SERVERs, for searching any of the PROFILES stored in any of the REGIONAL SERVERs and for

accessing a RESOURCE stored in any one of the LOCAL SERVERs based on the searched PROFILES.

7. (TWICE AMENDED) A system according to claim 6, wherein the search means comprises means for Boolean key-word searching of the PROFILES contained in any of the REGIONAL SERVERs.

8. (THREE TIMES AMENDED) A system according to claim 6, wherein the search means further comprises means for ordering a search of any of the PROFILES to be performed at a future time.

9. (FOUR TIMES AMENDED) A method of managing RESOURCEs, comprising the following steps:

(a) logically grouping a plurality of SERVERs into LOCAL SERVERs and REGIONAL SERVERs;

(b) storing the RESOURCEs at one or more of the LOCAL SERVERs;

(c) allowing a user to store, from a single site distinct from the LOCAL SERVERs, PROFILES for the RESOURCEs at one or more of the REGIONAL SERVERs, each PROFILE containing information relating to its RESOURCE;

(d) allowing a user to search, from the single site, all of the PROFILES stored in the REGIONAL SERVERs; and

(e) allowing the user to access, from the single site, a RESOURCE from any one of the LOCAL SERVERs based on the PROFILES searched in the REGIONAL SERVERs.

10. (TWICE AMENDED) A method according to claim 9, wherein:

(1) some of the RESOURCEs comprise downloadable data; and

(2) some of the RESOURCEs comprise data which is not downloadable.

11. (TWICE AMENDED) A method according to claim 10, wherein some of the RESOURCEs comprise physical objects.

12. (TWICE AMENDED) A method according to claim 9, wherein some of the RESOURCES take the form of downloadable data, and the method further comprises the step of allowing a user to download the downloadable data from one of the LOCAL SERVERs to the user's site.

13. (TWICE AMENDED) A method according to claim 9, wherein all of the PROFILEs are stored in a single REGIONAL SERVER.

14. (TWICE AMENDED) A method according to claim 9, wherein multiple collections of the PROFILEs are each stored in different REGIONAL SERVERs, and each collection contains substantially all of the PROFILEs.